



November 18, 2020

Dear OLSS Families,

I would like to explain a little bit more about the purpose and expectations of fundraising for our school. Our goal is – and always has been – to provide the highest quality faith-based education for your child. The actual cost to educate a student is much greater than the tuition we charge. The actual cost of tuition is approximately \$10,000/per year, per child. We charge approximately \$7,000, and to bridge that financial gap, we rely on support from our Parish, our HSA, fundraisers, and other advancement efforts each year.

As explained at Back to School night, in several school newsletters, and again at the recent HSA meeting that there would be many more small fundraisers this year due to the restrictions we are under due to COVID. Our usual larger fundraising events such as the Christmas Bazaar, Fr. Alexander Gala, Spaghetti Dinner, Spring Tea Party, and many other events have had to be cancelled. We usually only need to have one major fundraiser in the fall and one in the spring, but since we cannot have many traditional events, we must try to make up for that by having several smaller fundraisers.

I also mentioned that families are required to participate in some fundraising events, but I do not want them to feel pressured to participate in all of them. I suggested choosing one and participating as fully as possible and passing on others. I try to make it fun and show my appreciation to families for their efforts by offering incentives to the students for their participation. For the current SchoolStore.com fundraiser, you don't even need to sell or buy anything; all you have to do is register, and every child gets a prize.

I can assure you that there is no pressure here at school from teachers regarding fundraising. Please do not put that pressure on yourselves or your children. Since every family is required to participate in fundraising, then every child will receive an incentive at some point in time. No one gets them all and it is not expected. Some families are able to give more volunteer time than others; some rely on the fundraising to meet their obligation. I am trying to provide opportunities to help everyone meet their volunteer service hours and fundraising goals.

I hope this has helped to further explain the fundraising. I am very appreciative of all that you do to support OLSS.

Stay happy, healthy, & holy!

Mrs. Jennifer Thompson

Principal

NEWS:

HONOR ROLL: Congratulations to our 1st Quarter Honor Roll recipients, included with today's news.

TAG DAY: Next **Mon, Nov. 23** is a fall colors Tag Day. Each child should bring either a canned food item or a \$1 donation to benefit SMILE's Food Pantry. No shorts and no leggings unless they are worn under a dress.

CRATE PICK –UP: Students' crates with their textbooks, workbooks, and other items needed for the Virtual Learning Week Nov. 30-Dec. 4 will be sent home next **Mon, Nov. 23**. Crates will be placed in alphabetical order in the parking spaces at the front of the afternoon carline for parents to pick up at dismissal.

NOVEMBER RAFFLE: 8th grade is hosting a raffle for a basket of fall items including a \$50 Marshall's gift card, a fall tablecloth, dish towels, baking mixes, decorations, & more, to benefit their Graduation Fund. The value of items is over \$100. Tickets are \$1 each, six for \$5, or 13 for \$10 and may be purchased through our [online store](#). Drawing will be Nov. 24.



SPIRIT NIGHT: We will have a Spirit Night at The Ruddy Duck in Solomons on **Wed, Dec. 9** from 5-9pm.

VIRTUAL LEARNING WEEK: In accordance with Archdiocese of Washington's and CDC's recommendations, we will have another Virtual Learning week and the school campus will be closed the week after Christmas Break; **January 4-8**.

LIFETOUGH RETAKES: Lifetouch portrait retakes will be done on **Thu, January 14**.

REMINDERS:

COLD WEATHER: Students go outside several times a day for recess and breaks. Please make sure your child has a warm jacket, and hat and gloves if necessary to keep them warm outdoors.

SCHOOLSTORE.COM: OLSS has joined [SchoolStore.com](https://www.schoolstore.com), a program by which we will receive cash from over 400 online merchants, such as Target, Kohl's, & Walmart when you shop online. You can also purchase a Caring for Classrooms gift card that will directly help your child's classroom with supplies.

BASKETBALL FUNDRAISERS: Our Athletic Director is currently selling several items to help raise money for new uniforms for our basketball teams, including chocolate bars, mugs, and Advent items. Items may be purchased after weekend Masses or paid for through the [online school store](#) and sent home with your child.

VIRTUAL LEARNING WEEK: All students will learn virtually, and the school campus will be closed the week after Thanksgiving; **Monday, Nov. 30-Friday, Dec. 4.** Teachers will send information about their virtual learning schedules for the week.

MINTED FUNDRAISER: Shop holiday cards at [Minted.com](https://www.minted.com) and save 20% on your purchase, and Minted will donate 15% to OLSS! Use code FUNDRAISEOURLADYSTAR at checkout.



ADVENT CHARITIES:

Each class is participating in a service project to support local charities for the Advent Season:

- PK-1st: Project Echo Homeless Shelter
- 2nd: SMILE – Christmas gifts & stocking stuffers
- 3rd: Calvert Animal Welfare League
- 4th: Birthright Pregnancy Support Center
- 5th-8th: SMILE – Christmas gifts & stocking stuffers

More detailed info on donations needed for these charities will be sent home from teachers.

Please note that all donations will be collected as soon as we return to school after the Virtual Learning Week, from Dec. 7-11.

SMILE donation deadline is Dec. 11.



TURKEY TROT TUESDAY, NOV. 24 AT OLSS

Our 11th Annual Turkey Trot fundraiser is next **Tue, Nov. 24.** We are using a website for donations. Each student must be registered by their parent/guardian in order to collect donations. Please go to <https://olss.myfunrun.com/> and click on "Student Registration".

We appreciate your support of this fundraiser for our school!



SANTA SHOP

Our Santa Shop will be held on **Mon, Dec. 7 & Tue, Dec. 8** during school hours. This is an opportunity for students to shop for gifts for their families. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we will not have visits with Santa or cookies and hot chocolate this year.

Gifts are \$4/each and must be paid for in advance through the online school store. Each child will receive a shopping list before Thanksgiving break, which they must bring with them on their shopping day when we return from the Virtual Learning Week.

We also need several volunteers to wrap gifts on both days. Please email Amber Tamburri if you can help at: websales@olsss.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 23: Tag Day – Canned item or \$1 donation
- Nov. 24: Turkey Trot
- Nov. 24: 12:30pm Dismissal
- Nov. 25-27: No School - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 30-Dec. 4: VIRTUAL LEARNING WEEK

DECEMBER

- Dec. 7-8: Santa Shop
- Dec. 9, 5-8pm: Spirit Night at Ruddy Duck
- Dec. 18: 12:30pm Dismissal
- Dec. 21-Jan. 3: No School - Christmas Break